

Dublin, October 21. 1871

Dear Mr May - Now is not that date pretty? And don't you in your affliction often wish I w^d always write? You verily - but not more than I do.

I have paid Bowler the 11/2 & have duly received the draft for £13.10. As to the 10^d you sent extra I paid 2 pence for the P.O. order & with that high minded scrupulosity for which we are both eminent, I send you back 8 penny stamps that you may find useful at some future time.

Mrs May's letter to Deborah was a great feast. It was almost as good as being at the wedding - but then I must cum longo intervallo. As we say in Paddyland, "It is I that would have liked to be there". Oh dear to see you all in all your glory - & then it is so satisfactory that contrary to what often happens in such cases, Mrs May is quite satisfied with her daughter in law. Mary May is a lucky woman to have got into such a circle - only I do pity poor Mrs Blodgett & wish her all the happiness she can have in the absence of such a daughter.

Alfred has quite recovered, I thank you. I don't think the photos of Mrs May, which were carefully made up for Bookport, could have reached you when your last letter was written. I will be glad to hear of their safe arrival - also any opinion you hear about the Washington portrait - purely in the way of curiosity.

The auctioneer from whom I got it is a man of high character & large experience. He told me he had never seen such another - & a gentleman of my ^{acquaintance} ~~experience~~ who was somewhat of a connoisseur could not guess how it was executed. Mind, I am not a bit fidgety - nor even an anxious inquirer.

Only think I am embarked on the reading or listening to the reading of Horace Walpole's letters - 6 vols. 2000 pages - paper & politics from 1710 to 1797 when he died, aged 80. Also by way of relief, Bowdler's Life of Johnson. As D. & I could do much else, we have taken to this substitute for ordinary society. I am not sure but I like it better. But when you & Ade come we will throw all our books to Jericho.

Will you please forward the enclosed to Richard. We have not yet heard of his landing. I leave the envelope open in case you incline to send the poor fellow a line. Only think he has not heard from home since last December.

Yours affectionately

R. D. Webb

I am glad Mrs Amory has turned up. I don't like to lose things.